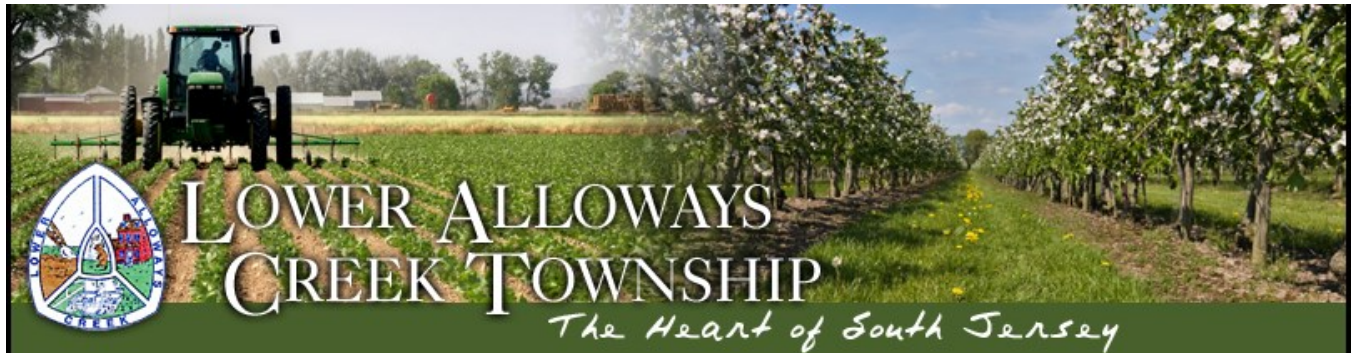


2016 – 2020
COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN



Lower Alloways Creek Township
Salem County
New Jersey

Mayor & Committee Members

Ellen B. Pompper, Mayor
Jeffrey P. Palombo, Deputy Mayor
Timothy Bradway, Committeeman
Robert F. Breslin III, Committeeman
Richard Venable, Committeeman

Municipal Clerk

Ronald L. Campbell, Sr.

Public Works Foreman

Lewis Fogg

Plan Prepared by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION

MUNICIPAL INFORMATION FORM.....	4
---------------------------------	---

INTRODUCTION

SCOPE.....	5
MISSION STATEMENT.....	5
OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS.....	5
HAZARDS AND LIABILITY.....	6

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER ALLOWAYS CREEK.....	6
FOREST RESOURCES.....	9
RELATION TO THE MASTER PLAN.....	13

MAPS

TOWNSHIP STREET MAP.....	15
--------------------------	----

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

SHADE TREE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.....	16
SHADE TREE ORDINANCE.....	20

ANNUAL BUDGET AND RESOURCES

OVERVIEW.....	21
---------------	----

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	23
---------------------------------------------	----

COMMUNITY FORESTRY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHMENT

ORDINANCE REVIEW AND ADOPTION.....	26
------------------------------------	----

PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH GOALS.....	26
-----------------------------------------------------	----

ARBOR DAY

ARBOR DAY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	27
-------------------------------------	----

TREE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	28
----------------------------------------------------	----

HAZARD TREE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

HAZARD MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	29
---------------------------------------------	----

STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	30
---------------------------------------------------	----

TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL

MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	31
---------------------------------------------------	----

<u>INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT</u>	
INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	33
<u>WILDFIRE PROTECTION</u>	
WILDFIRE PROTECTION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	34
<u>TREE PLANTING</u>	
TREE PLANTING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	35
<u>TREE RECYCLING</u>	
RECYCLING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	36
<u>SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE</u>	
SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	37
<u>STORMWATER MANAGEMENT</u>	
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	37
<u>OTHER GOALS</u>	
OTHER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	38
<u>PLAN PREPARATION AND EVALUATION</u>	
PLAN PREPARATION.....	40
<u>PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</u>	
PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.....	41
SUMMARY OF 2016-2020 OBJECTIVE	
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE.....	42
<u>COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAMS</u>	
COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM FUNDING.....	45

1. MUNICIPAL/COUNTY INFORMATION FORM

Municipality Lower Alloways Creek Township
County Salem County
Address 501 Locust Road, P.O. Box 157
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

Contact Name and Title Ronald L. Campbell, Sr., Municipal Clerk
Phone Number 856-935-1549 ext 6230
Fax # and E-mail 856-935-7666 clerk@lowerallowayscreek-nj.gov
Organization Name Lower Alloways Creek Township

Mayor's Signature

ELLEN B. POMPPER

I certify that this Community Forestry Management Plan was developed specifically and exclusively for our municipality.

Date of Management
Plan Submission May 2016

Time Period Covered
In Management Plan 2016-2020

Community Stewardship
Incentive Program (CSIP)
Identified in Management
Plan

- X CSIP# 1 Training
- X CSIP# 2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment
- X CSIP# 3 Public Education and Awareness
- X CSIP# 4 Arbor Day Activities
- X CSIP# 5 Tree Inventory
- X CSIP# 6 Hazard Tree Assessment
- X CSIP# 7 Storm Damage Assessment
- X CSIP# 8 Tree Maintenance and Removals
- X CSIP# 9 Insect and Disease Management
- X CSIP# 10 Wildfire Protection
- X CSIP# 11 Tree Planting
- X CSIP# 12 Tree Recycling
- X CSIP# 13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program
- X CSIP# 14 Storm Water Management
- X CSIP# 15 Other

**Official Use Only
Certification**

The above named municipality/county has made formal application to the New Jersey Forest Service. I am pleased to advise you that after our review, the NJ Forest Service has concluded that this plan meets the standards set forth by the State and the NJ Community Forestry Council and is approved for the period covered.

Signed

State Forester

Approval Date

2. INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

Lower Alloways Creek Township applied for and received a Green Communities Grant to finance the development of this initial five-year plan. The Lower Alloways Creek Township Community Forestry Plan is being developed by the Lower Alloways Creek Township Green Team.

The community forest resource is an important resource that contributes to the quality of life for the residents of Lower Alloways Creek Township. This community forest resource works to improve air and water quality, reduce energy costs, increase property values, improve citizen health and beautify the Township.

The following outlines the programs, policies and procedures by which tree resources within Lower Alloways Creek Township will be managed during the period of January 2016 through December 2020. The objectives in this five-year plan address street trees, park trees, trees on other public grounds and educate private tree forest owners.

Mission Statement:

The overall goal of the Lower Alloways Creek Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program is to improve the quality of life throughout Lower Alloways Creek Township by maximizing the aesthetic value of the landscape, the environmental, social and economic benefits of trees to the community while minimizing the associated costs and liabilities.

Overall Program Goals:

The New Jersey Community Forestry Council has identified fifteen Community Stewardship Incentive Program (CSIP) practices that together comprise a complete and comprehensive community forestry program that will help the Township complete the goals laid out in this plan.

Within each of the plan elements that follow, existing Township programs, policies and procedures are described, intermediate end element-specific goals are established, and five-year CSIP-based objectives are set.

Systematic fulfillment of the CSIP-specific goals and objectives will gradually move the Township's Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program toward its overall program goals, which have been established as follows:

1. Develop and perpetuate a beneficial tree resource.
2. Reverse the tree deficit; by planting more trees than are removed.
3. Maximize the benefits of trees to the community.
4. Maximize long-term stability and sustainability in the shade tree resource.
5. Optimize the balance between tree health, maintenance costs and budgetary constraints.
6. Minimize the risks of hazardous trees to public safety.
7. Minimize conflicts with and recognize trees as infrastructure within the Township.

8. Educate the community concerning community forest benefits regarding storm water issues.
9. Improve and maintain public interest, appreciation and support for public Community Forestry and Shade Tree Programs and encourage volunteer participation.
10. Encourage the planting and proper care of trees on private property.
11. Meet all eligibility requirements of the NJ Shade Tree & Community Forestry Assistance Act.
12. Develop Forest Stewardship Plans on Township owned land, control invasive species and educate the public of the benefits of planting native species and trees within the streetscape.

Hazards and Liability:

As is the case with all municipal assets, trees require maintenance and it is inevitable that potentially hazardous conditions will emerge. Nevertheless, a complete, comprehensive and proactive Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program will strive to prevent, anticipate and correct such problems that maximize the benefits of trees to the community while minimizing the threat to public safety and exposure to liability. All elements of the Community Forestry Management Plan are designed to optimize the balance between tree benefits and risks.

Lower Alloways Creek Township acknowledges that not all hazardous conditions can be or will be predicted. It must work within a limited budget and may not be able to meet every need immediately. The intent of the plan is to direct available resources toward the greatest needs and systematically develop and maintain a healthy shade tree resource with a commensurate reduction in any threats to public safety.

Public safety will be a primary consideration in the development and implementation of all shade tree plans and programs. This plan provides a means of identifying and abating existing tree hazards on a prioritized basis. Further, it provides a means of reducing the potential for future hazards and liability through responsible planting and preventive maintenance.

3. Community Overview

Lower Alloways Creek Township History

Lower Alloways Creek Township was formed on June 17, 1767, when Alloways Creek Township was subdivided and Upper Alloways Creek Township (now Alloway Township) was also formed. The township was incorporated by an Act of the New Jersey Legislature on February 21, 1798, as one of New Jersey's original group of 104 townships. The name Alloway is derivative of Allowas, a local Native American chief.

Lower Alloways Creek Township (aka LAC Township) is Salem home to several important historical sites that are listed in the National Registry of Historical Places. The Hancock House, was the site of an early morning British-led Revolutionary War massacre on March 21, 1778. Built in 1734, the Hancock House is an important tangible link to understanding the history of Salem County and our Nation's struggle for independence. It was the home of a prominent Salem County family and is an excellent example of English Quaker patterned end wall associated with the lower Delaware Valley and southwestern New Jersey.

The story of the Hancock House begins in 1675 when John Fenwick, a lawyer and Quaker from England, arrived in West Jersey (now Salem County). With land purchased two years earlier he established the first permanent English settlement here called “Fenwick’s Colony” and founded the town of Salem. Eager to populate the area with skilled, industrious individuals, he advertised the area’s assets by stating “if there be any terrestrial “Canaan” tis surely here, where land floweth with milk and honey”.

The Alloways Creek Friends Meeting House was built in 1756, the meeting house is still in pristine condition with the original interior unchanged. A typical mid-18th century meetinghouse, it retains its old benches and interior panels made of seasoned New Jersey pine. Windowpanes are of Wistarburg Glass and the exterior brick was made from local clay. The moveable partitions, separating men and women, remain in place and still operate. The Alloways Creek Friends Meetinghouse is located on Buttonwood Drive in Hancock’s Bridge, New Jersey. Where in about 1820, 10 buttonwood trees, eight of which remain today were planted. They remain some of the largest and most magnificent Sycamore trees in Salem County.

Lower Alloways Creek Township Today

Lower Alloways Creek Township, located in southwestern Salem County and has a total area of 72.455 square miles of which 27.22 (37.5%) square miles is water. The Delaware River and Bay form the western portion of the Township, to the northwest is Delaware, to the north is Elsinboro, City of Salem, to the west is the Township of Quinton, to the south are the Cumberland County townships of Stow Creek and Greenwich. The estimated population is 1,770 from the 2010 census. The population density is 16.1 per square mile. Median household income was \$66,384. Median family income was \$72,969. Median age is 44.2. The average household size is 2.6 and the average family size was 3.03.

Age Breakdown	Percentage
Under 18	21.8%
18 to 24	7.8%
25 to 44	22.1%
45 to 64	31.0%
Over 65	17.3%

Racial Breakdown	Percentage
White	96.95%
Black or African American	1.36%
Native American	0.28%
Asian	0.17%
Hispanic	1.53%
Other races	0.11%
Two or more races	1.13%

Lower Alloways Creek's Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program

Many Lower Alloways Creek Township streets are heavily treed/forested, and agricultural areas often contain large open grown trees. Trees within the right of way in Lower Alloways Creek are overwhelmingly native trees species often grown in a forest setting.

Despite all of the positives, many of the trees are aging and inevitably will require replacement or maintenance. With age and deterioration come increased needs for hazard identification and abatement. As a result, segments of the public tree population are demanding a higher level of attention than before and removal and replacement needs are increasing. Many of the potential hazard trees found along roadways will likely be found in forest environs.

Lower Alloways Creek Township will look to reverse the tree deficit. A tree deficit means that the Township has been removing more trees than it is replanting. Many trees were lost over the last two years as a result of Superstorm Sandy and the early fall snow in 2016.

Relation to the Township's Master Plan

Implementation of this Community Forestry Management Plan will directly or indirectly help satisfy some of the goals and objectives of the Township's Master Plan and subsequent reexaminations.

Lower Alloways Creek Township's most recent Master Plan was adopted in September, 1992. On February 11, 2012 the Lower Alloways Creek Township adopted the latest re-examination of the Master Plan.

Trees, forests and this Community Forestry Plan can help meet the goals listed below.

Page 112 2a. Conservation of existing natural resources should be an integral part of the planning process, particularly with respect to the constraints associated with environmentally critical and sensitive areas

Page 112 3. The eastern section of the Township should remain predominantly rural and agricultural to preserve forested areas.

Page 116 Under Performance Standards: Specific standards should include buffers, open space, lighting, landscaping, parking, sidewalks, stormwater management and signage.

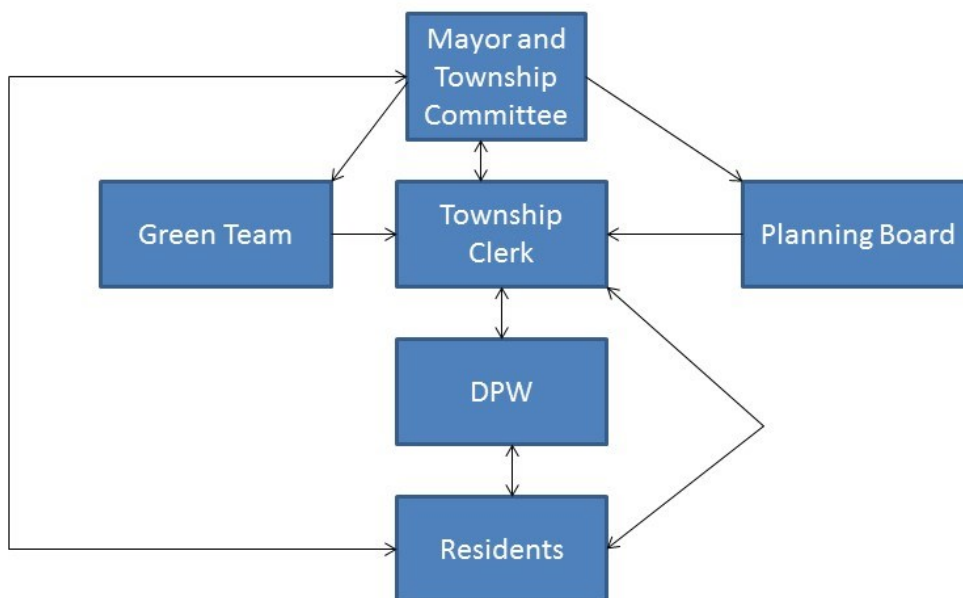
Trees should be added or maintained as much as is possible to reverse the tree deficit. Redevelopment projects create great opportunity for introducing trees into the built landscape. Trees in developed areas can reduce stormwater flows, provide cooling effect in summer and help developed areas mimic the rural/forested character of the rest of Lower Alloways Creek Township. This Community Forestry Plan once approved by the NJ Forest Service should be adopted as an element of the Master Plan.

4. COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND SHADE TREE PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Department of Public Works is primarily responsible for the management of public trees in Lower Alloways Creek Township. However, the Department of Public Works will work cooperatively with advisement from the Municipal Clerk and the Green Team and in cooperation with various other bodies as follows.

Lower Alloway's Creek Township Tree Flow Chart



1.

Mayor and Township Committee

- The Mayor is responsible for appointing members of the Green Team.
- The Mayor and Township Committee have ultimate authority over the policies, procedures and programs of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program and are responsible for approving its budget.
- The Mayor and Township Committee will approve any projects in association with the Community Forestry Program such as the application for CSIP grants.

2. Municipal Clerk

- a) Under the direction of the Mayor and Township Committee, the Municipal Clerk supervises the daily operations of the Township's various departments and serves as its Chief Administrative Officer.
- b) In addition, the Municipal Clerk is responsible for:
 - Developing the municipal budget.
 - Handling citizen inquiries.
 - Performing various other administrative duties and completing special projects in connection with the Mayor and Township Committee.

3. Green Team

- a) The Green Team is a group of nine volunteers, who are appointed by the Mayor and Township Committee.
- b) The Green Team is responsible for among other things:
 - Responsible for the Sustainable New Jersey Certification which this plan be applied towards recertification.
 - Advising the Township Committee and the Department of Public Works as to the future plans for the planting, pruning, removal, and care of trees and shrubs in Township rights-of-way and on public lands.
 - Assisting in the development and implementation of solutions for problems and issues relating to public trees.
 - Conducting research of current and potential future use of open land areas of the Township.
 - Developing grants through CSIP to fund programs discussed in this plan.
 - Keeping an index of all open areas.

4. Planning Board

- a) The Planning Board is responsible for implementing and enforcing various elements of the Township Code and Master Plan that relate to the planting and preservation of public and private trees, landscaping and buffers.

6. Other Township Departments and Boards

- All Departments notify the Department of Public Works of tree-related hazards for emergency response (e.g. Police Department notifies the Public Works Foreman of downed trees for emergency service, etc.).

7. Property Owners

- a) Private property owners are indirectly involved in the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Programs to the extent that they:
 - Notify the Township of potential hazard trees and future planting locations.
 - May be asked to be stewards of new public tree plantings adjacent to their properties.
 - Are encouraged to plant and properly maintain trees and landscaping on private property, native trees where possible.
 - Some Forest Owners prepare and maintain a Forest Management Plan to obtain Farmland Assessment within the Township.

7. Community Volunteers

- a) Community Volunteers may assist in the future in completing certain projects and tasks relating to the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program, including planting and education and outreach programs.

8. Department of Public Works

- a) The Department of Public Works manages the daily operations of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program with the advice and advisement of the Municipal Clerk.
- b) Specifically, the Superintendent of Public Works is responsible for:
 - Assisting in the planting, maintenance and removal of public trees.
 - Providing emergency response services, when appropriate.
 - Following all current and accepted arboricultural standards and practices and abiding by all current safety standards relating to tree care operations.

11. Public Utilities

- a) The role of public utilities in the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program is primarily to minimize conflicts between trees and their facilities and infrastructure.
- b) While working on or around Township trees, public utilities report to the Department of Public Works and the Green Team and are responsible for:
 - Abiding by all applicable ordinances.
 - Keeping the Township informed as to their work plans and schedules.
 - Exercising reasonable diligence in the installation and maintenance of their facilities to avoid damage to public and private trees.
 - Not removing any tree without prior approval of the Township or its owner.
 - Following all current and accepted arboricultural standards and practices.
 - Assisting the Department of Public Works or Township contractors in completing tree removal and maintenance work around their facilities, where necessary.

SHADE TREE ORDINANCE

Lower Alloways Creek Township does not currently have a shade tree ordinance. One of the goals of this plan will be to develop an ordinance that is workable for the Township.

SHADE TREE POLICIES

Lower Alloways Creek Township's Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program does not currently have formal, written policies. However, the Program does operate in accordance with several unwritten policies, as indicated in the following sections.

TREE SERVICE REQUEST PROCEDURES

Requests for the pruning, removal or other treatment of public trees are primarily received from property owners and received by the Municipal Clerk or Department of Public Works. All service requests are addressed in the following manner:

1. All service requests are received by the Department of Public Works directly or by the Municipal Clerk and forwarded to the Department of Public Works.
2. For pruning requests:
 - a) The appropriate work is completed by the DPW on a priority basis.
 - b) There is currently very little pruning being completed by the Township.
3. For tree removal requests:
 - a) The tree is inspected by the Department of Public Works to determine the validity of the request.
 - b) If removal is not justified, the requester will be notified of such.
 - c) The appropriate work is completed by the DPW on a priority basis.
4. Emergency service requests are responded to immediately by the DPW, mutual aid agreements and/or an outside contractor, as appropriate. All others are completed in order of priority and/or as time permits.

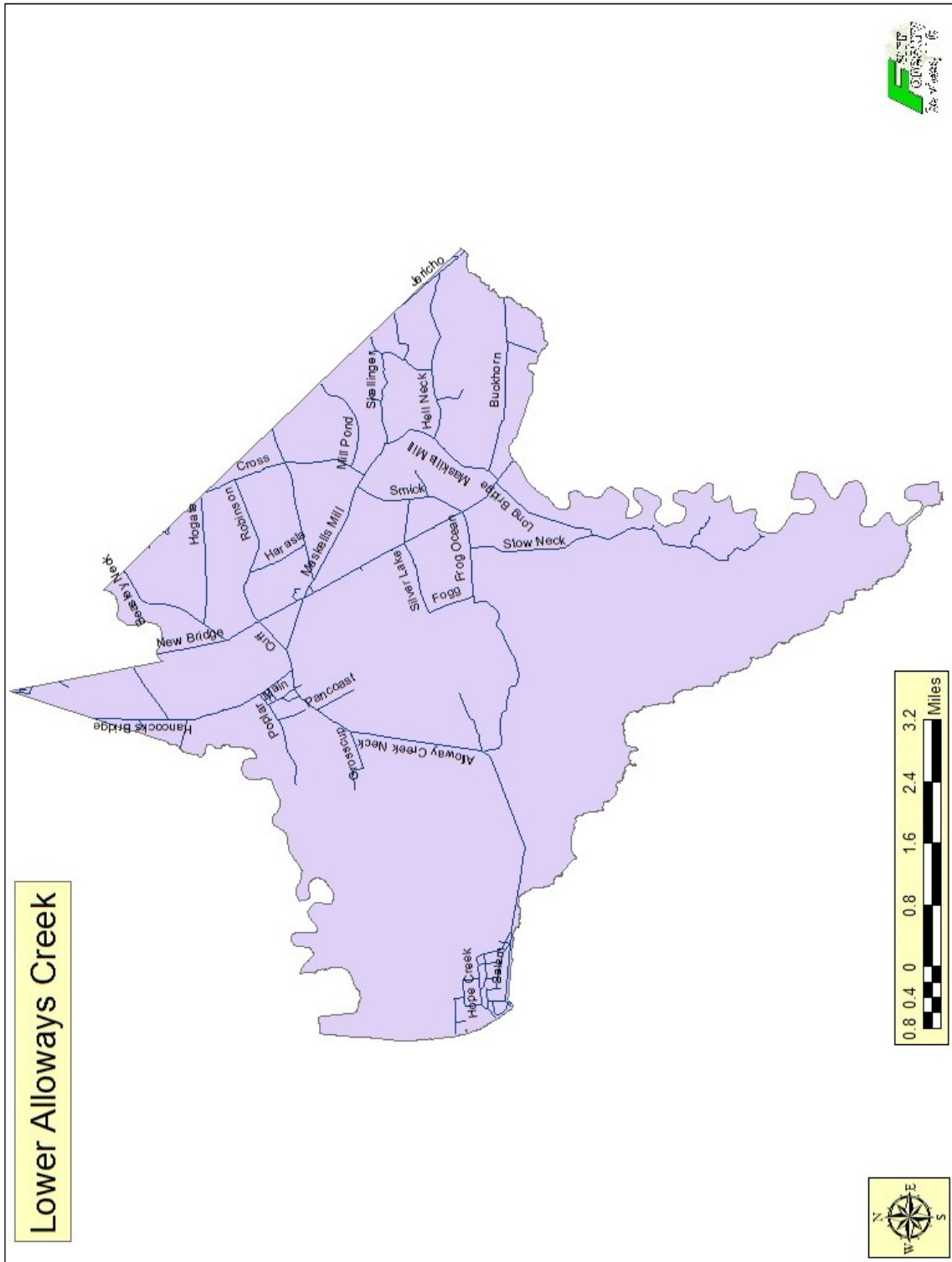
2016-2020 Administration Objectives

1. Ongoing Administrative Programs

1. 2016-2020

- Continue implementing the administrative programs, policies and procedures already in effect. This system has worked effectively and efficiently over time.

5. TOWNSHIP MAP



6. TRAINING PLAN

CSIP #1 TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Lower Alloways Creek Township recognizes that a continuous, comprehensive training program is necessary for individuals at all levels of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program to ensure effective shade tree management over the long term. Specifically, ongoing training and professional development will:

1. Ensure that individuals within the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program have sufficient knowledge to make appropriate and effective management decisions.
2. Ensure that all tree planting and maintenance activities are planned and completed in accordance with the latest scientific knowledge and current industry standards.
3. Ensure that tree inspections and evaluations follow accepted standard procedures and that the results are objective, and technically correct and consistent.
4. Ensure continuity in the overall level of knowledge and expertise within the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program as individuals leave the Program and new ones join.
5. Satisfy the requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Training Skills and Accreditation Program.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICES AND PROCEDURES

1. Training Provision:

- a) Employees of the Department of Public Works (DPW) are provided with ongoing safety and related training.
- b) The DPW provides “cross-training” by rotating its employees between various crews so that they can master a variety of skills. As a result, all of the DPW employees can lend a capable hand when assistance is needed.
- c) The cost of existing training programs is covered by the operating budget of the DPW, and in the future through CSIP grants as appropriate for tree related and Community Forestry training. However, the objectives listed below may require a significant increase over current training budgets. The Township’s ability to meet these objectives may fully depend upon the availability of external sources of funding.

2. Licenses, Certifications and Recent Training:

- a) Members of the Green Team, Planning Board and Township employees do not currently hold licenses or certifications directly related to arboriculture and urban forestry, and are not required to.
- b) The current Department of Public Works is knowledgeable and capable in all aspects of shade tree management, tree evaluation, and tree maintenance techniques.

3. New Jersey Community Forestry's Training Skills and Accreditation Program:

- a) At the time this plan was prepared, No Township employees or volunteers have satisfied the CORE Training requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Training Skills and Accreditation Program.

CURRENT TRAINING NEEDS

The Township has identified the following areas in which training is currently needed or desired:

- 1. New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act CORE Training for at least one volunteer and at least one Township employee.
- 2. Ongoing, advanced level tree hazard identification and assessment for DPW employees and any volunteers.
- 3. General urban forestry training (legal issues, community forestry planning, etc.) for DPW employees or Green Team and Planning Board members.
- 4. Planning site analysis and species selection for Green Team and planning Board members and the Department of Public Works.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Training Programs

a) 2016-2020

- Continue implementing all existing training and professional development programs, policies and procedures based on need in order to maintain accreditation.
- Strive to maximize the number of individuals--including both employees and volunteers—and increase their level of expertise.

2. N.J. Community Forestry's Training Skills and Accreditation Program

January – March, Annually

- Review training needs and upcoming training opportunities. Ensure that the Township will accumulate the necessary continuing education credits required by the N.J. Shade Tree and

Community Forestry Assistance Act Training Skills and Accreditation Program by the end of each year. This may be provided by the Forester if desired.

January 2016- December 2017

- Obtain CORE Training for at least one Green Team volunteer and one DPW/Township employee.

Tree Related Training

January 2016- December 2020

- Train the Department of Public Works or other key employee or volunteers to further advance his or her ability and training on tree related issues. This will be accomplished via attendance at a professional course or seminar related to tree related training. Annual training may be tree health, hazard tree identification, proper tree planting and maintenance, invasive species management, etc.

CONTRACTORS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

Contractors working for the Township and utility contractors working in or around Township trees must have sufficient training and knowledge to ensure that all treatments are completed to applicable American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) standards and practices and performed in a safe manner. They must also possess all appropriate certifications.

Evidence of training and appropriate certifications must be provided to the Department of Public Works prior to commencing work.

7. PUBLIC EDUCATION/AWARENESS/OUTREACH

CSIP #3 PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH GOALS

The Green Team will work to develop strong Township and citizen support. However, it recognizes that ongoing public education, awareness and outreach programs are necessary to ensure continued success over the long term. Specifically, such programs will:

1. Maintain and further increase the interest and active support for Lower Alloways Creek Township's Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program.

2. Encourage community assistance in implementing various programs, protecting public trees, and beautifying the Township.
3. Encourage the planting, protection and care of trees on private property for the benefit of the entire community.
4. Educate all citizens in the importance of environmental stewardship and native species.
5. Educate people on the potential of preserved land and the benefits of active stewardship and management.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

There are currently no public education and awareness outreach programs related to trees, their maintenance and their importance to the community.

One simple option would be to post a link on the Township website to the following:

a) Tree Owner's Manual for the Northeastern & Midwestern United States
www.treeownersmanual.info.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Work to develop Public Education, Awareness and Outreach Programs to meet the requirements of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Act and build public support for the program.
2. Work towards recognition by Tree City USA and work to maintain the certification.
3. Utilize the Township's internet web site (<http://www.LowerAllowaysCreek-nj.gov>) to post announcements relating to the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program, such as the educational materials, grants applied for and received and information about progress being made in this program.
4. Submit at least two articles a year discussing the Community Forest, accomplishments of the program, educational articles, etc.

8. ANNUAL BUDGET AND RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

Lower Alloways Creek does not currently track hours or expenses related to tree work. Moving forward once the plan is adopted the Township will track and record time and expenses related to tree work within the Township.

Completion of some of the objectives contained in the Plan will require resources that the Township may not be able to produce or sustain. The Township's ability to satisfy these objectives may fully depend on obtaining additional funding through external sources and grant programs.

EMPLOYEE SALARY AND WAGES

Time and wages related to Municipal Clerk and Department of Public Works Personnel are not tracked and cannot be estimated.

OPERATIONS

Contracted Services, Training, Materials and Supplies, Consulting, Other Miscellaneous Expenses

At this time no tree work is contracted out to private tree companies.

TOWNSHIP EQUIPMENT

Chip Truck
One Dump Truck
Various Chain Saws
Various Small Tools

Subtotal	\$100,000.00
(Estimated annual value based on 5-10 year service life, maintenance repairs, etc.)	

TREE PLANTING

At this time no tree planting is conducted on a regular basis and there is no line item within the budget for tree planting.

Tree Planting

Subtotal	\$0.00
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WASTE RECYCLING

Expenses in relation to tree waste recycling are not tracked.

Leaf and Wood Disposal
Township facilities and equipment for storing
Processing and distributing recycled tree waste

Subtotal	\$0.00
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VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteer time in relation to volunteer hours has not been tracked to date but will be moving forward once the plan is approved.

Green Team and Planning Board members
Other Volunteers

Subtotal	\$0.00
(0 hours per year @ \$21.79)	

TOTALS

Township Resources	\$0.00
---------------------------	---------------

Value of Volunteer Contributions	\$0.00
-----------------------------------------	---------------

2016-2020 Budget Objectives

1. Ongoing Budget

1. 2016-2020

- The budget for the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program should see slight yearly increases when feasible and the time a materials utilized relating to this program will be tracked moving forward.
- Volunteer hours will continue to be tracked closely as their number and hours will increase over time with the implementation of this plan.

9. STATEMENT OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

CSIP #5 TREE INVENTORY/ASSESSMENT

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

At this time there is no inventory of street trees or trees within the Township right of way. Given the rural nature of the Township a full forest inventory would be outside the budget of the Township. The Township should investigate the possibility of seeking a CSIP grant to complete an inventory.

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GOALS

The goals of a tree inventory are to:

1. Provide accurate baseline information upon which sound shade tree management plans and decisions can be based.
2. Monitor and evaluate the impact of management activities on the tree population and progress towards the overall goals of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program.
3. Improve or establish proactive maintenance programs (e.g. systematic tree pruning, implementing young tree developmental pruning to reduce utility conflicts and structural failures in the future, etc.)
4. Improve the efficiency of daily tree management activities by using the data to identify, prioritize and schedule planting, maintenance and hazard abatement needs.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Shade Tree Inventory

a) January 2017 – December 2018

- Identify needs and desires for conducting a street tree inventory to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program. Completing this project will be contingent on the availability of funding through the CSIP program.

2. Street Tree Inventory Report

a) April – June 2019

- Produce a variety of charts and reports that summarize the current state of the street tree population. This report will serve as a baseline to which future reports can be compared and the impact of management activities can be evaluated.

CSIP #6 HAZARD TREE ASSESSMENT

This is likely the most important part of the Community Forestry Program and where the Township can systematically remove potential hazards and maximize efficiency in a fiscally responsible fashion.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Tree Hazard Identification

a) The Township currently lacks a formalized program for routinely and systematically inspecting public trees specifically for the purpose of identifying hazardous conditions. CSIP funding, if available, should be utilized here.

HAZARD MANAGEMENT GOALS

While the benefits of shade trees to Lower Alloways Creek Township residents are obvious, the Township recognizes that they also present risks and the potential for liability.

The sole purpose of the Tree Hazard Management element of this plan is to ensure public safety. The Township is committed to improving safety and reducing liability through comprehensive and proactive shade tree management. Public safety shall be the primary consideration in all shade tree planning, decision-making and activities at all levels of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program. There have been fatal tree accidents in neighboring communities over the last few years and advancing this program will help reduce the potential for such accidents in the future.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Future Tree Hazard Management Programs

a) January – December 2017

- Complete a formal hazard tree survey if funding is available.
- Continue to address hazard abatement needs as they are identified and as funding allows.

CSIP #11 TREE PLANTING

PLANTING GOALS

The stability of the tree population will be improved by manipulating and optimizing its species composition and age distribution via careful species selection and consistent planting from year to year.

Further, responsible species selection, placement and planting techniques will help reduce further tree and infrastructure conflicts. Native species will be recommended for planting.

1. Improve and maintain species diversity to help insulate the tree population from catastrophic losses to species-specific insects and diseases.
2. Improve and maintain age diversity so that the number of trees requiring removal and replacement due to advanced age is consistent from year to year.
3. Minimize conflicts between trees and buildings, utilities and other public and private fixtures.
4. Minimize future maintenance needs and costs.
5. Strategically plant the right species in the right place with stormwater issues in mind.
6. Potential plantations on preserved land.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Township does not have a planting program and is operating in a tree deficit, removing more trees than it is planting.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Tree Planting Programs

a) 2016-2020

- Apply for CSIP funding to increase tree planting by the Township.
- Develop underwire planting criteria.
- Develop a planting response to large scale tree loss due to severe weather events.

2. Vacant Planting Site Identification

a) July – October 2017

- Prioritize all existing vacant planting sites identified by the tree inventory and the Green Team to be utilized for future planting projects if CSIP funding is available.
- Contact landowners to determine if they want a replacement trees.

CSIP #8 TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVALS

MAINTENANCE AND CARE GOALS

The Township recognizes that proactive, systematic tree maintenance more cost effectively improves tree condition and appearance, extends their service life, and reduces hazards instead of having a haphazard “crisis” approach. At this time the township does not have the equipment or staff time to do tree pruning but over time it will become a component of the program.

Maintenance needs are addressed before trees are planted by selecting species and disease-resistant cultivars that are suited to the area in which they will be planted to minimize stress, insect and disease infestations and unnatural pruning needs. Developmental pruning early in the tree’s life will minimize future pruning needs and the development of structural defects. Conditioned maintenance as they mature will help extend their service life, increase their benefits relative to costs, and reduce their hazard potential.

Specifically, the goals of the tree maintenance program are to:

1. Improve and maintain the health and physical condition of the tree population.
2. Maximize the service life of existing trees.
3. Maximize the cost-efficiency of tree maintenance activities.
4. Maintain public safety.
5. Optimize the benefits that trees provide to the community relative to the cost of maintaining them.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. DPW Crews

a) The Township has a DPW that is available for tree projects. The entire DPW is made up of ten (10) men who are responsible for all of the duties of the Department of Public Works.

b) This DPW is equipped with:

- (1)chip truck
- (1)chippers
- Various chainsaws, pruners and other small tools

c) The DPW completes:

- Approximately eighty percent of all tree pruning work

2. Private Contractors

a) Private tree maintenance firms are routinely hired to complete pruning and limited specialty treatments.

b) Private contractors complete:

- 100% of all specialty work such as insect and disease treatments and fertilization.

3. Inter-Local and Mutual Assistance Agreements

a) The Township currently has informal agreements with neighboring municipalities for sharing of equipment and personnel for tree maintenance.

4. Private Landowners

a) Private landowners are responsible for tree maintenance on their property and outside the Township right of way.

b) Home owners should notify the Township or County DPW of downed trees or hazardous trees in the adjacent right of way.

5. Tree Removal

a) It is the Township's policy to not remove public trees unless they are dead or hazardous or there is some other valid reason, subject to the approval by the Department of Public Works.

b) In recent years, the Township has removed 100 trees per year on average, particularly as a result of the severe weather events over the last few years.

6. Funding

a) The DPW operating budget covers the cost of tree work completed by its employees and contractors.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Tree Maintenance Programs

a) 2016-2020

- Continue implementing existing tree maintenance programs, policies and procedures on a regular basis.

10. COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Due to budget constraints many of the items laid out in this plan will require funding through the CSIP Program or outside sources for implementation. The Township and the Green Team recognizes the important of the Community Forest as Green Infrastructure requiring periodic maintenance, removal and replanting but the funding mechanisms do not exist without grants.

CSIP #1 TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Currently no employees or volunteers have completed CORE Training. Once the plan is approved the Township will acquire 8 hours of tree related continuing education credits annually to maintain certification. The Consulting Forester may be able to provide this training if the Township desires.

Training is discussed further above in Section 6.

CSIP#2 COMMUNITY FORESTRY ORDINANCE ESTABLISHMENT

SHADE TREE ORDINANCE

Lower Alloways Creek Township does not currently have a Shade Tree/Forestry Ordinance. It is recommended that the Township work to develop an ordinance to deal with trees within the Township.

2016 - 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment

a) Lower Alloways Creek Township could adopt a Model Forest/Tree Ordinance or work to review its applicability to its needs and adopt or modify as necessary. Adopting such an ordinance will be critical to attaining Tree City USA should the Township work to reach that recognition.

CSIP #3 PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

PUBLIC EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND OUTREACH GOALS

The Green Team will work to develop strong Township and citizen support. However, it recognizes that ongoing public education, awareness and outreach programs are necessary to ensure continued success over the long term. Specifically, such programs will:

1. Maintain and further increase the interest and active support for Lower Alloways Creek Township's Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program.
2. Encourage community assistance in implementing various programs, protecting public trees, and beautifying the Township.
3. Encourage the planting, protection and care of trees on private property for the benefit of the entire community.
4. Educate all citizens in the importance of environmental stewardship and native species.
5. Educate people on the potential of preserved land and the benefits of active stewardship and management.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

There are currently no public education and awareness outreach programs related to trees, their maintenance and their importance to the community.

One simple option would be to post a link on the Township website to the following:

a) Tree Owner's Manual for the Northeastern & Midwestern United States
www.treeownersmanual.info.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Work to develop Public Education, Awareness and Outreach Programs to meet the requirements of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Act and build public support for the program.
2. Work towards recognition by Tree City USA and work to maintain the certification.
3. Utilize the Township's internet web site (<http://www.lowerallowayscreek-nj.gov>) to post announcements relating to the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program, such as the educational materials, grants applied for and received and information about progress being made in this program.
4. Submit at least two articles a year discussing the Community Forest, accomplishments of the program, educational articles, etc.

CSIP #4 ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

No formal Arbor Day celebrations are currently conducted by the Township.

ARBOR DAY GOALS

The Township will begin to formally celebrate Arbor Day with a proclamation by the Township Committee and a ceremonial tree planting. Arbor Day is an excellent public relations tool for the Community Forestry Program for Lower Alloways Creek Township. Over time this will build public support for the program. Any articles related to the Arbor Day Program can be utilized as part of the two press releases annually.

2016-2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Arbor Day

- a) Lower Alloways Creek Township will formally celebrate Arbor Day with ceremonial plantings and a formal proclamation by the Township Committee.
- b) Programs can be run in cooperation with the Township school. Such programs shall include a formal proclamation and ceremonial tree plantings.
- c) The Lower Alloways Creek Township School should be encouraged to sign up for the NJ Free Tree Program for 3rd Graders.

CSIP #5 TREE INVENTORY

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

At this time there is no inventory of street trees or trees within the Township right of way. Given the rural nature of the Township a full forest inventory would be outside the budget of the Township. The Township should investigate the possibility of seeking a CSIP grant to complete an inventory.

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GOALS

The goals of a tree inventory are to:

1. Provide accurate baseline information upon which sound shade tree management plans and decisions can be based.
2. Monitor and evaluate the impact of management activities on the tree population and progress towards the overall goals of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program.
3. Improve or establish proactive maintenance programs (e.g. systematic tree pruning, implementing young tree developmental pruning to reduce utility conflicts and structural failures in the future, etc.)
4. Improve the efficiency of daily tree management activities by using the data to identify, prioritize and schedule planting, maintenance and hazard abatement needs.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Shade Tree Inventory
 - a) January 2017 – December 2018

- Identify needs and desires for conducting a street tree inventory to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program. Completing this project will be contingent on the availability of funding through the CSIP program.

2. Street Tree Inventory Report

a) April – June 2019

- Produce a variety of charts and reports that summarize the current state of the street tree population. This report will serve as a baseline to which future reports can be compared and the impact of management activities can be evaluated.

CSIP #6 HAZARD TREE ASSESSMENT

This is likely the most important part of the Community Forestry Program and where the Township can systematically remove potential hazards and maximize efficiency in a fiscally responsible fashion.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Tree Hazard Identification

- a) The Township currently lacks a formalized program for routinely and systematically inspecting public trees specifically for the purpose of identifying hazardous conditions. CSIP funding, if available, should be utilized here.

HAZARD MANAGEMENT GOALS

While the benefits of shade trees to Lower Alloways Creek Township residents are obvious, the Township recognizes that they also present risks and the potential for liability.

The sole purpose of the Tree Hazard Management element of this plan is to ensure public safety. The Township is committed to improving safety and reducing liability through comprehensive and proactive shade tree management. Public safety shall be the primary consideration in all shade tree planning, decision-making and activities at all levels of the Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program. There have been fatal tree accidents in neighboring communities over the last few years and advancing this program will help reduce the potential for such accidents in the future.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Future Tree Hazard Management Programs

a) January – December 2017

- Complete a formal hazard tree survey if funding is available.

- Continue to address hazard abatement needs as they are identified and as funding allows.

CSIP #7 STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

STORM DAMAGE ASSESSMENT GOALS

Tree-related emergencies are primarily the result of structural failure during severe weather events. The Township is prepared to respond promptly to such emergencies so that electrical service, communications and transportation can be restored with minimal disruption for residents. Other possible sources of widespread tree loss include insect and disease outbreaks and are less likely to cause mass losses due to the implementation of this plan.

The frequency and severity of tree-related emergencies and widespread tree loss are minimized through well-designed planting, maintenance and hazard tree management programs already being implemented by the Township.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Tree Emergency and Disaster Threats

- a) Severe weather leading to mass loss and structural failures are the primary disaster threat to Township trees.
- b) Structural failures pose a serious threat to electric service, communications, travel and public health. Downed trees may hamper the Township's ability to provide critical services during an emergency or disaster.
- c) Brush fires pose a threat to Township trees in all parts of the township, including trees on private property, township-owned property, and on preserved properties.

2. Existing Emergency and Disaster Plans

- a) The Township has an emergency response team and operations plans are in place. Mutual aid agreements are in place to provide support for large scale emergency situations.
- b) The Township does not have a plan beyond the initial response efforts, which specifically deals with large scale tree replacements after such events.

3. Emergency Response

- a) The DPW in cooperation with public utilities and contractors are responsible for immediately clearing trees and debris from open roadways and those that hamper the restoration of electrical service and communications.

- b) DPW staff are on call 24 hours a day to respond to tree related emergencies.
- c) Arrangements have been made with private contractors to provide support in emergency situations when this assistance is considered necessary.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. On-going Programs

a) 2016-2020

- Continue to implement the above programs above and review them on a regular basis.
- Reduce the risks of mass tree failure by continuing to implement and expand sound and responsible planting, preventative maintenance, hazard identification and remediation programs as laid out in this plan.

CSIP #8 TREE MAINTENANCE AND REMOVALS

MAINTENANCE GOALS

The Township recognizes that proactive, systematic tree maintenance more cost effectively improves tree condition and appearance, extends their service life, and reduces hazards instead of having a haphazard “crisis” approach.

Maintenance needs are addressed before trees are planted by selecting species and disease-resistant cultivars that are suited to the area in which they will be planted to minimize stress, insect and disease infestations and unnatural pruning needs. Developmental pruning early in the tree’s life will minimize future pruning needs and the development of structural defects. Conditioned maintenance as they mature will help extend their service life, increase their benefits relative to costs, and reduce their hazard potential.

Specifically, the goals of the tree maintenance program are to:

- 6. Improve and maintain the health and physical condition of the tree population.
- 7. Maximize the service life of existing trees.
- 8. Maximize the cost-efficiency of tree maintenance activities.
- 9. Maintain public safety.
- 10. Optimize the benefits that trees provide to the community relative to the cost of maintaining them.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. DPW Crews

a) The Township has a DPW that is available for tree projects. The entire DPW is made up of TEN (10) men who are responsible for all of the duties of the Department of Public Works.

b) This DPW is equipped with:

- (1)chip truck
- (1)chippers
- Various chainsaws, pruners and other small tools

c) The DPW completes:

- Approximately eighty percent of all tree pruning work

2. Private Contractors

a) Private tree maintenance firms are routinely hired to complete pruning and limited specialty treatments.

b) Private contractors complete:

- 100% of all specialty work such as insect and disease treatments and fertilization.

3. Inter-Local and Mutual Assistance Agreements

a) The Township currently has informal agreements with neighboring municipalities for sharing of equipment and personnel for tree maintenance.

4. Private Landowners

a) Private landowners are responsible for tree maintenance on their property and outside the Township right of way.

b) Home owners should notify the Township or County DPW of downed trees or hazardous trees in the adjacent right of way.

5. Tree Removal

a) It is the Township's policy to not remove public trees unless they are dead or hazardous or there is some other valid reason, subject to the approval by the Department of Public Works.

b) In recent years, the Township has removed 100 trees per year on average, particularly as a result of the severe weather events over the last few years.

6. Funding

- a) The DPW operating budget covers the cost of tree work completed by its employees and contractors.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Tree Maintenance Programs

a) 2016-2020

- Continue implementing existing tree maintenance programs, policies and procedures on a regular basis.

CSIP #9 INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT

There are no specific goals in this plan regarding insect and disease management. While the Emerald Ash Borer has been discovered in New Jersey in Somerset County, the extent of its distribution is not known at this time. Other insect and disease issues that are looming include the Gypsy Moth which is currently in a low population cycle, and Bacterial Leaf Scorch which studies are showing is found not only on the streetscape but also in the forest settings. The Department of Public Works, Green Team and Consulting Forester will continue to stay up to date on current conditions and potential forest health issues which may affect the community forest. This will be a reactive process.

2016-2020 OBJECTIVES

Goal: Maintain community forest health to provide as many environmental services and positive community benefits as possible for Lower Alloways Creek Township.

Objectives:

- Conduct continuous periodic monitoring of forest health issues throughout the Township.
- Create awareness among the public of forest health issues and the importance of trees to the community in order to increase appreciation for the community forest cover and create municipal pride and ownership.
- Should a major forest health issues be identified, CSIP funding may be applied for to reduce the financial impact on the Township.

CSIP #10 WILDFIRE PROTECTION

Wildfire is not a significant threat in Lower Alloways Creek Township. The biggest risk of wildfire would be from the phragmites dominated wetlands. Fire could nonetheless become a hazard during dry conditions and result in damage to structures or property. If Lower Alloways Creek Township is interested it should pursue becoming a Firewise Community if funding is available from the New Jersey Forest Fire Service and the CSIP program.

Goal: Lower Alloways Creek Township should pursue becoming a Firewise Community.

Objective:

- Determine if forest fire is enough of a threat to apply for Firewise funding and become a Firewise Community.
- Raise awareness of the potential for damage from wildfire within the township.
- Raise awareness of potential benefits of prescribed burning on forested habitats the township owns.

CSIP #11 TREE PLANTING

PLANTING GOALS

The stability of the tree population will be improved by manipulating and optimizing its species composition and age distribution via careful species selection and consistent planting from year to year. Further, responsible species selection, placement and planting techniques will help reduce further tree and infrastructure conflicts. Native species will be recommended for planting.

1. Improve and maintain species diversity to help insulate the tree population from catastrophic losses to species-specific insects and diseases.
2. Improve and maintain age diversity so that the number of trees requiring removal and replacement due to advanced age is consistent from year to year.
3. Minimize conflicts between trees and buildings, utilities and other public and private fixtures.
4. Minimize future maintenance needs and costs.

5. Strategically plant the right species in the right place with stormwater issues in mind.
6. Potential plantations on preserved land.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Township does not have a planting program and is operating in a tree deficit, removing more trees than it is planting.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Ongoing Tree Planting Programs

a) 2016-2020

- Apply for CSIP funding to increase tree planting by the Township.
- Develop underwire planting criteria.
- Develop a planting response to large scale tree loss due to severe weather events.

2. Vacant Planting Site Identification

a) July – October 2017

- Prioritize all existing vacant planting sites identified by the tree inventory and the Green Team to be utilized for future planting projects if CSIP funding is available.
- Contact landowners to determine if they want a replacement trees.

CSIP #12 TREE RECYCLING

RECYCLING GOALS

Lower Alloways Creek Township's Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program generates large volumes of vegetative waste. The Township recognizes the cost savings and benefits associated with properly recycling these materials and using the resulting products for beneficial use.

A comprehensive tree waste recycling program will:

1. Minimize the cost of tree related waste to the Township.

2. Produce beneficial recycled products for use on Township and residential properties.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. Recycling facilities

- a) The Township recycling center is used to store, process and distribute these recycled products.

2. Material Processing, Use and Distribution

- a) Leaves

- All leaves are delivered to the recycling yard for composting.
- The finished compost is made available for use by residents as well as on Township-owned property.

- b) Wood Chips

- All wood chips are stockpiled on Township property.
- These wood chips are utilized by residents as well as on Township-owned property as mulch.

- c) Bulk Wood

- To the extent possible, bulk wood products are cut and left on site for use by residents for firewood.
- Limited amounts of wood are delivered to commercial recycling facilities for processing into mulch and other wood products.
- Wood can also be processed into usable timber through a cooperative agreement with a saw mill.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Tree waste recycling programs will continue as they have in the past.
2. Bulk wood utilization will be reviewed for possible use in traditional forest products. The new Citi Log facility in Newark can process such material if it is economically feasible to do so. The Green Team should investigate developing an agreement with saw mills that are in closer proximity to utilize wood removed.
3. Develop a policy for residents to take advantage of wood from trees removed by the Township.

The only sidewalks within Lower Alloways Creek Township are found in the Hancocks Bridge section of the Township. There will likely be no activity involving sidewalks and CSIP #13 during this planning period. If tree sidewalk issues become a problem during this planning period a CSIP grant will be applied for to plan for and work on remedies.

CSIP #14 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Township has a Storm Water Management Plan backed by a Storm Water Management Ordinance. It is also referenced in the Township Master Plan. It may be possible to develop a grant for CSIP funding. There is a limited mention of trees and their positive impact controlling storm water.

2016 - 2020 Objective

1. Utilize trees and the community forest as a storm water management tool.

CSIP #15 OTHER

Forest Stewardship Planning on Preserved Land

The objective is to become a steward and guardian for township owned and conservation easement properties. Lower Alloways Creek Township will utilize CSIP funding to complete Forest Stewardship Plans on municipally owned and managed land where easements are held. These Forest Stewardship Plans will include identification and classification of the resources found on the parcel, baseline studies of preserved land and easements, management recommendations for controlling invasive species, forest and wildlife management recommendations, trail development, signage of owned properties and encouraging recreational use of the properties. Under these plans property boundaries should be clearly marked and delineated. Other goals may include but are not limited to maintenance and protection of scenic vistas and rare plant communities.

2016 - 2020 Objectives

1. Establish a Forest Stewardship Plan for Township Owned Property. Include preservation, passive and active recreation and silviculture management. A CSIP grant to engage a Forester should be obtained to complete this task.
2. Identify potential projects and obtain grants to complete them for trail development, blowdown recovery, permitted recreational uses and signs.

Creation of a Green Stormwater Management System

The Township may be able to utilize CSIP funding to create a model stormwater system which utilizes green technology to help infiltrate stormwater, remove sediments and nutrients. This model could be created on a municipally owned property and could serve as an education tool for residents to implement on their own properties.

11. PLAN PREPARATION AND EVALUATION

PLAN PREPARATION AND EVALUATION GOALS

The Township recognizes the benefits of this Community Forestry Management Plan to attaining long term success of its Community Forestry and Shade Tree Program. The Township is committed to developing and implementing consecutive five-year plans and remaining in compliance with the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. This plan is the first such plan being completed by Lower Alloways Creek Township.

EXISTING PROGRAMS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Plan Preparation

Preparation of this first five-year plan was a cooperative effort of the Green Team and their Consulting Forester. This plan was funded by the Green Communities Grant Program through the New Jersey Forest Service's Community Forestry Program.

2016- 2020 OBJECTIVES

1. Annual Program Evaluation

- a) Every December the Green Team, DPW, and the Consulting Forester will evaluate the success of the past year's activities and accomplishments relative to the goals and objectives laid out in this plan.
- b) Programs will be adjusted as necessary based upon this evaluation.
- c) Prepare and submit the Annual Accomplishment Report to the New Jersey Forest Service in accordance with the requirements of the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act.

2. Five-year Evaluation

- a) The achievement of goals and objectives will be evaluated for completion to date as laid out in this plan.

b) New objectives and adjustments to existing policies will be made and changed if necessary for the 2020-2024 management planning period by August 2020.

c) A new plan shall be written and submitted for approval to the New Jersey Community Forestry Council by October 1st, 2020.

Plan Implementation

Successful implementation of this plan will require a dedicated core of volunteers, community acceptance and buy in from municipal employees and elected officials. This plan lays out the specific actions to be carried out each year for the next five years and the group responsible for carrying out these actions. This Implementation Timetable is a projected schedule. There may be unforeseen circumstances that may result in an alteration to this timetable. For this reason some projects may be completed earlier or later than projected in this plan.

At each meeting progress will be reported, it will be clearly laid out who is responsible each task, who will assist in completion of the task and clear deadline for completion of the task. It is also understood that the Lower Alloways Creek Township has a limited pool of employees available to carry out this plan. Success breeds interest and each successful project should result in a press release.

Implementation Timeline

Date	Activity	Responsible Party	
2016			
Spring 2016	Arbor Day Tree Planting	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Volunteers	Annual
2016	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Green Team	Annual
2016	Submit two articles to the Township website, local and regional newspapers	Green Team	Annual
Fall 2016	Plan and develop outreach efforts at community events	Green Team Consulting Forester Volunteers	Annual
2016	Attain CORE Training for at least one	Dept. of Public Works	New

	volunteer and DPW employee	Green Team Mayor and Council	
2016	Register all 3 rd Graders in the Township for the free tree program from NJ Tree Foundation	Green Team 3 rd Grade teachers	New
2016	Recruit volunteers for implementing the plan	Mayor and Council Green Team	New
2017			
Spring 2017	Arbor Day Tree Planting	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Volunteers	Annual
2017	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Green Team	Annual
2017	Complete annual training requirements	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Consulting Forester	Annual
2017	Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and Township website.	Consulting Forester Green Team	Annual
2017	Complete Forest Stewardship Plan on Township owned land if CSIP grant has been received	Consulting Forester Green Team	New
2016	Apply for CSIP funds to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan for Township owned land.	Green Team Consulting Forester	New
2017	Investigate alternate sources of funding for shade tree projects	Green Team	New
2017	Clear views of any traffic signals and signs which are inhibited	Green Team Dept. of Public Works	New
2017	Apply for CSIP funding to complete a hazard tree survey and tree inventory	Green Team Consulting Forester	New
2018			
Spring 2018	Arbor Day Tree Planting	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Volunteers	Annual
2018	Apply for Tree City USA certification	Green Team	Annual
2018	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Green Team	Annual
2018	Continue and improve outreach efforts at community events.	Green Team Consulting Forester Volunteers	Annual
2018	Complete annual training requirements 8 Continuing Education Units	Green Team Dept. of Public Works	Annual

		Consulting Forester	
2018	Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and Township website.	Consulting Forester Green Team	Annual
2018	Complete a Forest Inventory and Hazard Tree Assessment if CSIP funding has been received	Consulting Forester Green Team	New
2018	Apply for CSIP funding to remove invasive species on Township Owned land	Consulting Forester Green Team	New
2018	Work to adopt a Shade Tree Ordinance	Green Team Mayor and Council Consulting Forester	New
2018	Complete Forest Stewardship Plan on Township owned land if CSIP grant has been received	Consulting Forester Green Team	New
2019			
Spring 2019	Arbor Day Tree Planting	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Volunteers	Annual
2019	Apply for Tree City USA recertification	Green Team	Annual
2019	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Green Team	Annual
2019	Complete annual training requirements 8 Continuing Education Units	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Consulting Forester	Annual
2019	Continue and improve outreach efforts at community events.	Green Team Consulting Forester Volunteers	Annual
2019	Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and Township website.	Consulting Forester Green Team	Annual
2019	Implement the removal of invasive species on Township owned land if CSIP funding is received to implement the program	Green Team Consulting Forester Volunteers	New
2019	Finalize the Tree Inventory and Hazard Tree Survey	Consulting Forester Green Team	New
2020			
Spring 2020	Arbor Day Tree Planting	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Volunteers	Annual
2020	Apply for Tree City USA recertification	Green Team	Annual

2020	Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program	Dept. of Public Works Green Team	Annual
2020	Complete annual training requirements 8 Continuing Education Units	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Consulting Forester	Annual
2020	Continue and improve outreach efforts at community events.	Green Team Consulting Forester Volunteers	Annual
2020	Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and Township website.	Consulting Forester Green Team	Annual
2020	Reevaluate hazard trees and update the list	Green Team Consulting Forester	Annual
2020	Strategic planning, goal development and evaluate the successes and failures of the first planning period and begin planning for the next five-year plan.	Green Team Dept. of Public Works Mayor and Council Consulting Forester	New
2020	Apply for Green Communities Grant funding for the creation of the second five-year plan	Green Team Consulting Forester	New

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM (CSIP)

The completion of this plan will allow Lower Alloways Creek Township to be eligible for CSIP grants when they are available to complete specific tasks laid out within the plan. As the Township has limited funds, any CSIP funds that are made available will help to facilitate the implementation of the plan and completion of goals and objectives laid out in this plan will prove to be extremely beneficial.

Due to recent State budget problems some of these CSIP programs may not be funded year to year. The attainment of some objectives shown in the Objectives Timeline may be contingent on the availability of adequate funding from the State and/or other sources.

CSIP 1 Training

At this time no employees and no volunteers have attended CORE Training. Depending on funding, other volunteers and Township Employees will receive CORE Training. The Community Forestry Act has stringent training requirements to maintain certification which state that at least one volunteer and one Township employee must be CORE trained. Training on specific topics may be completed and assigned based upon needs as determined by the Green Team, Department of Public Works or the Mayor and Township Committee. Training can be through Rutgers, the Forester, or any other tree related courses, eight CUE's must be attained annually or the Township will lose certification.

CSIP 2 Shade Tree Ordinance Establishment

Goal: Develop an ordinance which provides the best management resource protection and management for the Township.

Objectives:

1. Review the current ordinance to assure that it meets the needs of Lower Alloways Creek Township. The Highlands Council will be developing a model ordinance for municipal adoption.

CSIP 3 Public Education and Outreach

Public education, awareness and outreach is the most vital part of this plan and the cornerstone for a successful Community Forestry Program. The overall goal is to continue to enhance the community's awareness of Lower Alloways Creek's forest resource and the value and benefits of maintaining and improving this resource. With improved awareness will come improved volunteer recruitment and more successful activities and ultimately a successful community forestry program.

Goal: To continue to promote general tree awareness and stewardship among residents of the municipality.

CSIP 4 Arbor Day Activities

Lower Alloways Creek will celebrate Arbor Day with a Mayoral Proclamation to obtain Tree City USA status and to promote public awareness. The day will also include a ceremonial tree planting.

Goal: Enhance the community's awareness of the value provided by the community forest.

CSIP 5 Tree Inventory and Assessment

Lower Alloways Creek Township has not completed a thorough assessment of its forest resource. If this is to be accomplished it will require a CSIP grant during this planning period.

Goal: Develop and maintain the inventory database as trees are planted, pruned and removed.

CSIP 6 Hazard Tree Assessment

A hazard tree assessment should be completed during the first five-year planning period. The most hazardous trees from the priority list would be removed first depending on available funding. The Township will continue to monitor the other potential hazard trees which were listed and conduct annual monitoring of these and other trees which may deteriorate over time and create hazardous situations. This survey should include public parks, and trees within the roadway right of way.

Goal: To continue to improve the safety and vigor of the Community Forest

CSIP 7 Storm Damage Assessment

Lower Alloways Creek Township has not completed a storm damage assessment and due to a lack of funding may not do so. The Township DPW works cooperatively with the neighboring municipalities' DPW's to handle large scale tree emergencies. As this process has worked in ice storms and wind events the current status will remain in place.

Goal: To promote continued mutual aid agreements to facilitate the clean-up of catastrophic tree related damage during severe icy or wind events.

CSIP 8 Tree Maintenance and Removal

As discussed above, the community forest is an investment in the future and much like any infrastructure it needs constant maintenance to maximize its value. Pruning is one issue that is often cut from tight budgets and results in an increase in safety hazards.

Goal: Improve the health and safety of the community forest.

CSIP 9 Insect and Disease Management

There are no specific goals in this planning process regarding insect and disease management. With the potential for Emerald Ash Borer making its way into New Jersey over the next five-years as it has been found in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland it is just a matter of time before the insect establishes itself in Lower Alloways Creek Township. Other insect and disease issues that are looming are Gypsy Moth which is currently in a low population cycle, Bacterial Leaf Scorch which studies are showing is found not only on the streetscape but also in the forest. The Asian Longhorned Beetle is also a pest that continues to "pop up" in the east. The Green Team will continue to stay up-to-date on current conditions and potential forest health issues which may affect the community forest.

Goal: Maintain community forest health to provide as many environmental services and positive community benefits as possible for Lower Alloways Creek Township.

CSIP 10 Wildfire Protection

Wildfire is not a significant threat in Lower Alloways Creek Township based on the forest cover found here. During dry periods wildfire is possible or likely. If the Green Team is interested it may pursue becoming a Firewise Community if funding is available from the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.

Goal: Investigate becoming a Firewise Community.

CSIP 11 Tree Planting

The Green Team will work to encourage the planting of native trees throughout the Township in an attempt to reverse the loss of tree canopy due to removal of hazard trees and death of the aging large canopy trees. The planting program will assure canopy cover into the future.

Goal: Develop resources to provide alternate funding for tree planting and maintenance programs

CSIP 12 Tree Recycling

All trees that are storm damaged or removed are either taken from the Township by the tree service or utility completing the removal and chipped or cut into firewood to sell. A protocol can be developed where a tree removed from a property could be left for firewood for the landowner.

Goal: Develop a program for more creative use of trees removed from the Township; discuss possible programs with a nearby sawmill.

CSIP 13 Sidewalk Maintenance

Sidewalks are not a concern for the municipality as there are very few sidewalks within the Township.

Goal: Reduce the negative impact to tree root systems during curb and sidewalk installation.

CSIP 14 Storm Water Management

Trees and forests offer positive affects for stormwater management.

Goal: To promote the benefits of the Community Forest as an important storm water tool.

CSIP 15 Other

The Township should apply for CSIP funding for the following projects.

Forest Stewardship Planning on Preserved Land

The objective is to complete a Forest Stewardship Plan for all municipally owned and maintained land. Goals of the plan would be active stewardship, invasive species control, deer management, trail

development and protection of rare communities and threatened and endangered plants and animal and the maintenance and protection of scenic vistas.

Invasive Species Control

Lower Alloways Creek Township will consider applying for CSIP funding to facilitate the removal of invasive species from public land and to provide education to residents about removing invasive species on their properties and avoiding planting them.

Restoration of Riparian Areas

Trees are a critical component of riparian buffers and provide streambank stability, shade for keeping water cool, nutrients that drive the aquatic food chain, and can reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loading.

Creation of a Green Stormwater Management System

Create a model project that could be created on a municipally owned property and could serve as an education tool for residents to implement on their own properties.

Easement Monitoring

The Township of Lower Alloways Creek holds conservation easements on private properties. These easements should be monitored to assure the easements are being honored. A baseline study should be followed up with annual inspections.

Goal: Apply for a CSIP grants to complete create demonstration projects for Forest Stewardship, Invasive Species Control, Restoration of Riparian buffers and Green Stormwater Management which can serve as a model for residents on their properties. The Township also wishes to monitor its conservation easements on private land.